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this country, seems now to depend on the restoration of its freedom, as it is proved by undeniable documents, that if it be allowed to remain in its present limited form, it will languish, decay, and pass into the hands of other States.

10. That the danger supposed to arise from excess of speculation, at the commencement of an open commerce with India, is altogether imaginary; because the enterprize of individuals is uniformly circumscribed by their means and success; because any evil of this nature is temporary, and checks itself; and because the very worst that can occur, in the event of the abandonment of the trade by the public, would be, that matters again would return to their present state.

11. That at a time when the anti-commercial system of France has been successfully exerted to exclude us from the continental markets; when the prosecution of an expensive war renders it necessary to adopt every means for augmenting the revenue, and when our existence, as a nation, depends in a great degree on the maintainance of our naval superiority, it has become not only highly expedient, but indispensibly requisite, to open up every legitimate channel of trade, for the preservation of our commercial, maritime, and financial interests.

12. That this Chamber, fully satisfied that the injury arising from every monopoly, must be proportionate to the extent of the trade thus confined; and convinced of the importance, and even the necessity of a free intercourse with the rich, populous, and extensive countries in the East, as well those formerly acquired by the Company, as those lately subdued by his Majesty's arms; and dismissing the idea of all interference with the territorial rights and political privileges of the Company.

Resolved, That petitions to both houses of Parliament, founded on the basis of these Resolutions, be immediately prepared and presented before the approaching discussion; that the Report, accompanied by these Resolutions, be printed, communicated to Members of both Houses, and transmitted to every commercial and manufacturing town of importance, in the United Kingdom, that the co-operation of the nation at large be earnestly requested in petitioning Parliament to refuse the renewal of the East India Company's monopoly; and that Messrs. Kirkman Finlay, Chairman; James Dennistoun, Deputy Chairman; James Hopkins, Alexander

Campbell, David Connell, James Ewing, A. D. Campbell, Francis Garden, James Buchanan, James Buchanan, jun., James Robertson, and Dugald Bannatyne, be appointed a Committee, with full powers to carry the above Resolutions into effect.

K. FINLAY.

EAST INDIA CHARTER.

Guilthall, Bristol, February 19, 1812.

At a most numerous and respectable general meeting of the Merchants, Traders, and other Inhabitants of this City, convened by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, pursuant to a written request,—to consider what measures may be proper to be taken by this City, upon the approaching expiration of the East India Company's charter.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor in the chair.

The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

First—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that it would greatly contribute to the prosperity of the trade and commerce of this city, provided it could be admitted to a participation in the trade to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, and the westward of Cape Horn, from which the act 33d of the King, chap. 52d, now excludes the out ports in favour of the port of London.

Second—That a committee of gentlemen be appointed by this meeting, for the purpose of collecting information, inspecting documents, &c. relative to the said trade, and to report to a future meeting such measures, as, in their opinion, it may be proper and necessary for the inhabitants of this city to adopt, on the approaching expiration of the East India Company's Charter, to open that trade to the country at large, in such manner as may be consistent with justice, the public good, and the peace and safety of our East Indian settlements.

Third—That the following gentlemen be named as the committee, that is to say—the Right Worshipful John Hilhouse Wilcox, esq. Mayor; the Master and Wardens for the time being of the Society of Merchant venturers; Mr. Alderman Daniel—Mr. Philip Protheroe—Mr. John Loudon Mc Adam—Mr. John Masters—Mr. George Dyer—Mr. John Lewis Anriol—Mr. Philip George—Mr. Joseph Hillicar—Mr. James Fowler—Mr. Adrien Moens—Mr. Charles Payne—Mr. James Evan Baillie—Mr. William Fripp—Mr. Michael Castle—Mr. William Peter Lunell—Mr. James Martin Hilhouse—and Mr. John Cave—with power to add to their

number such gentlemen as may be likely to further the object of this meeting, and that any five of such committee be a quorum.

Fourth—That Mr. Wm. Lewton Clarke be appointed Secretary to the said committee.

Fifth, That it be an instruction to the said committee to correspond with all of the other Out Ports of the United Kingdom—and, as far as possible, to co-operate with them in all the measures necessary to procure the great object in view,

Sixth—That in order to create a fund for defraying the expence of such measures as may be necessary to be taken in consequence of the foregoing resolutions, a subscription be entered into, the produce of which shall be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

Seventh... That the thanks of this Meeting be given to John Loudon M'Adam, esq. for having called the attention of the Citizens of Bristol to so important an object,—for the able manner in which he has opened the business,—and for the zeal he has shewn in procuring information, which will so much facilitate the labours of the committee.

Eighth—That these resolutions be published in all the Bristol Papers, and in such other manner as the Committee shall think expedient. J. H. WILCOX, Mayor.

Ninth—The Right Worshipful the Mayor having quitted the Chair, the Thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to him, for his able conduct therein. and also for his kind and ready compliance with the request addressed to him for convening the Meeting.

PROTEST,

Entered on the journals of the House of Lords, against going into a Committee on the Bill, intituled, "an act for the more exemplary punishment of persons destroying or injuring any Stocking or Lace Frames, or other Machines or Engines used in the Knitting Manufactory,

Because,—We feel ourselves in duty bound to record our disapprobation of all further proceedings on a Bill, characterised by those who supported it, as indiscriminately inflicting the punishment of Death on all crimes described by words copied out of an Act of Parliament, which had, in no instance, the forfeiture of life in contemplation.

It was with a mixed feeling of surprise and indignation we learnt, from the dis-

cussion that has already taken place, that this Bill, in its nature the most interesting, grave, and important that can be submitted to the consideration of the Legislature, had been framed without sufficient deliberation to enable the friends of the measure to give any distinct explanation of the precise crimes to which, under the legal import of the words, thus thoughtlessly and precipitately adopted, it is proposed to extend the punishment of death.

We cannot therefore, under such circumstances, consent to go into a committee; for even the amendments which might be there proposed and adopted, would, in our opinion, disgrace the two Houses of Parliament, by recording that they are capable of rashly agreeing to the principle of a Bill thus indiscriminately and by wholesale applying capital punishment to a variety of offences, differing in their motive, their character, and their guilt;—for the purpose of considering what exceptions might subsequently be suggested by prudence and humanity, which ought exclusively to guide the judgment of the Legislature in every stage of their deliberations, on all acts of criminal legislation.

We agree in the opinion so generally expressed in this House, that the conduct of the Manufacturers, in destroying frames, and other machinery, used in our manufactures, must proceed from mistaken views of their own interests; as they, more than any other class of his Majesty's subjects, are deeply interested in the preservation of machinery, to the improvement of which we owe our existence as a manufacturing country.

But we think it our duty, strongly and in distinct terms, to reprobate the unprecedented folly of attempting to enlighten the minds of men, in regard to what is beneficial for themselves, by increased severity of punishment;—whilst every sound principle of criminal legislation makes us regard such an addition to the long list of offences, already subjected to capital punishment by the laws of this country, with astonishment and disgust;—and every feeling of humanity leads us to express the utmost horror at the wanton cruelty of punishing our fellow-creatures with death, for those culpable acts, more injurious to themselves than to any other part of the community—to which, through mistaken views of policy, the increasing distress of the times has reduced them to resort.

LAUDERDALE.
ROSSLYN.